

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Truck-Related Deaths Fall

The number of fatalities nationwide as a result of a crash involving a commercial motor vehicle dropped 4.2 percent in 2002, according to the United States Department of Transportation. This continues a decline that started in 1997, and has fallen 9.3 percent since that time.

In Washington State, commercial motor vehicle-involved fatal collisions have declined 24 percent from 1999 to 2002. "These numbers are a direct result of an increase in the number of large truck inspections being performed," stated Commander of the Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Division, Captain Frederick R. Fakkema.

Washington State Patrol officers inspected 74,152 commercial vehicles in 2001. That number increased to 115,884 in 2002. Fakkema added, "There is a direct correlation between the increase in the number of trucks inspected and the decrease in the number of trucks involved in fatalities in our state. As an enforcement agency, we will continue to strive in the area of truck inspections."

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